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MAIN BUSINESS AND EDITORIAL OFFICES,
230 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y.
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The Brooklyn Railway Strike.
The members of the Amalgamated
Association of Street and Electric Rail-
way Employees on the payroll of the
Brooklyn Rapid Transit struck yester-
day for a rise in wages with also the
purpose, according to the officials
of the company, of getting the closed
shop. The company is being managed
by a receiver appointed by the United
States District Court. The strikers
challenged the court and the public
service by the company, and before the
strike was four hours old violence had
marked the struggle.

Brooklyn has a population of 2,022,
282 dependent for transportation on
the Brooklyn Rapid Transit except in
those sections reached by Interbor-
ough Rapid Transit lines. Scores of
thousands of its people use the lines
affected by the strike to go to and
from their work in other boroughs.
Scores of thousands of the people of
other boroughs use these lines to get
about. Local transportation within
Brooklyn is almost exclusively oper-
ated by the Brooklyn Rapid Transit. Be-
cause of this the strike of the Amal-
gamated men inconvenienced the
people of the whole city and left
Brooklyn and its huge population in a
pitiable situation, a situation no
great community should be forced to
endure.

That the meaning and menace of
the strike were comprehended by an
overwhelming majority of the people
of Brooklyn their conduct proves.
They answered the strikers' challenge
by volunteering to fill from the mem-
bership of their responsible civic and
social organizations the places vacan-
tied by the men who quit. The
number of volunteers was gratifyingly
large. The promptness with which
they came forward showed their thor-
ough understanding of the conditions
the city had to face.

The company has undertaken to run
its cars with loyal men. If it needs
other men they may be hired, or they
may be drawn from the ranks of the
volunteers. If the company can get
protection for its loyal workers it can
run its cars. That protection it is the
duty of the city to provide while the
company fulfills its duty to provide
transportation for the public.

It is the supreme duty of the city
government to protect the workers on
the Brooklyn Rapid Transit, but the
duty in this situation does not rest
solely on Mayor Hylan with the re-
sources at his command. It rests on
all the citizens, on the residents of
Brooklyn mainly, but on those of
Manhattan, The Bronx, Queens and
Richmond in only a slightly lesser
measure. There can be no disturbance
affecting one part of the municipal
body which does not affect all the
other parts.

The city government can preserve
the public peace. The police are com-
petent to do the job. Since consolida-
tion New York city has never had to
call for soldiers to maintain order.
For years before consolidation the old
city of New York had not seen a sol-
dier on duty to suppress disorder.
That record is a splendid part of New
York's history. But in a struggle of
this kind the city government is en-
titled to and must have the unwav-
ering support of all law abiding citizens
while the officials perform their pri-
mary function of maintaining the
public peace.

The community that fails to give
that support to its officials at a time
like this will have itself to blame if
the peace is broken.

This is not a case of let every
fellow do it, but a case of every citi-
zen doing his part for all.

**A New Gas With a Symbol Easily
Remembered.**
Men of the laboratory will not be
the only persons interested in the ap-
pearance of what we believe to be a
new chemical compound. If it is not
new, at least it has never before been
found in a natural mixture.

The main constituent of this new
gas is carbon monoxide, that unpleas-
ant gas which forms when the com-
bustion of carbon with oxygen is in-
complete. A faulty car stove will
emit it. In the present discovery,
however, it comes from the poor draft
in a mental furnace that is stuffed
with false mathematics. The second
ingredient is xenon, a gas usually

distilled from liquid air but in the
new discovery obtained from the cold
percolation of a gentleman who tried
to get away with something and
failed. The combination is a political
gas full of hot air, sulphurous odor
and malarial alveoli.

As the chemical symbol of carbon
monoxide is CO and that of xenon is
X, the symbol of the combined gases
is easily arrived at.

The Vanderbilt Will.
The will of the late WILLIAM K.
VANDERBILT is of the conventional type
that men with a family have been
wont to make.

This is to say, Mr. VANDERBILT gave
all his vast fortune to his family with
the exception of a small bequest to
Vanderbilt University, Nashville,
Tennessee, an aggregate gift of \$200,000
to his butler and to his valet, and a
bequest of paintings to the Metro-
politan Museum of Art.

THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD
is not criticizing Mr. VANDERBILT's
will. It is a very natural one after
the manner of men, and yet compar-
ing it with the will of the late HENRY
C. FRICK this newspaper sees the latter
as a much bigger document. It had
broader and bigger thought back of it.

Mr. FRICK had a family, a wife and
two children, a son and a daughter.
If he had followed the conventional
method of disposing of his property,
a multi-millionaire's fortune, he
would have left the bulk of it to his
son that the name of FRICK might
mingle with the few other names in
our country famous because of what
has amounted to untold fortunes.

But it is clear that Mr. FRICK recog-
nized the great fact that he did not
give to himself his extraordinary
genius, the inevitable fruitage of
which was his vast achievements.
With this conception it followed natu-
rally that he should turn largely
this fruitage to God's children,
those less generously endowed than
himself by the Creator.

Other rich men from time to time
have had the same conception. Mr.
FRICK must have had. A notable ex-
ample of this was MR. ALTMAN's very
splendid charity in the disposition of
his handsome fortune. These men of
vision are happily increasing as the
lesson of life further unfolds to the
world.

MR. SEARLES recently passed out of
life and left a will that had nothing
in it to commend. He had no family.
It was the worse in his case, as he
neither earned the money nor in-
herited it from his people. His for-
tune was the great fortune of MARK
HOPKINS, handed over to him by the
widow of the great California finan-
cier when she became Mrs. SEARLES
at the time of her death.

Mr. W. K. VANDERBILT received
from his father, WILLIAM H. VANDER-
BILT, about \$10,000,000. His brother,
the late CORNELIUS VANDERBILT, re-
ceived a like amount. The chief
share of WILLIAM H. VANDERBILT's
fortune was left to these two sons.
Most of CORNELIUS VANDERBILT's for-
tune he bequeathed to his son
ALFRED G.

It has been the habit of the Van-
derbilts to follow the entailed system,
as has been the habit with the Astors,
Commodore VANDERBILT, the founder
of the family, left the preponderance
of his fortune to WILLIAM H. In turn
it went to CORNELIUS and WILLIAM
K., and now the latter's fortune in
the main passes on to his two sons,
WILLIE K., Jr., and HANCOCK.

The \$700,000,000 inherited by W. K.
VANDERBILT on the death of his father
should have at least doubled in his
clever hands. Mr. VANDERBILT was a
notably able man in railroad manage-
ment and in financial matters. In
these he ranked high with the best
men of his day.

WILLIE K., Jr., and HANCOCK have
the ability of the best of the Van-
derbilt strain. They are both earnest,
serious, hard working young men, and
with the vast means now in their
possession are sure to achieve largely
in the coming years.

Following the usual Vanderbilt
method of willing away a great for-
tune it is well that Mr. VANDER-
BILT had two such worthy sons to
whom to turn it over. But we could
wish that he had been imbued in
larger measure with the spirit that
actuated Mr. FRICK in the making of
his will—the spirit that is coming to
reach other men of great wealth.

**Senator Harding on America's Rea-
son for Going to War.**
Senator HARDING's address on Satur-
day was primarily and principally di-
rected to our foreign relations, but it
included one reference which incident-
ally shed light on a passage of
domestic history which has been fre-
quently misrepresented.

A bold effort has been made by
President Wilson to convince the
people of this country that somewhere,
somewhere in making war against Ger-
many they were committed to an
indefinite career of correction of all
the injustices and rectification of all
the inequalities, social and political,
which ingenious and persistent agents
of maddened devils.

The President and his supporters
have repeatedly talked about pledges
and commitments which, if they had
any place outside the oratory of Wil-
sonian self-determined statesmanship,
would keep us busy in the remotest
corners of the earth as long as our
national institutions survived. The
strain put upon them by excursions
into other people's business.

This newspaper has occasionally
directed attention to the baseness of
these allegations of obligation, and
more than once has printed the text of

our declaration of war against the
Imperial German Government to
show how utterly they are without
foundation in fact.

This subject occupied Senator HAR-
DING's attention for a moment in
his survey of world affairs, and he
was able to incorporate in his address
of this year an extract from his Sen-
ate speech on the declaration of war,
in which he took the sound, sane po-
sition that we were going to fight for
American interests, for American
rights, for American freedom, and not
for internationalism or vague gen-
eralities of benevolence.

This was the attitude of Congress,
recorded officially in the text of the
declaration of war. It was the atti-
tude of Americans generally. It was a
sound and sensible attitude, and Sen-
ator HARDING did well to bring out
the fact that it was the attitude of
our people and their Government.

**The Lingo of Drive Promotion
Comes Home to Roost.**
The Democratic organs cannot be
too severe (for THE SUN AND NEW
YORK HERALD's taste and acquies-
cence) in the condemnation and ridi-
culation of the now bestowing on the
science of the money raising attach-
ment of the Republican National
Committee.

The fact remains that where Gov-
ernor Cox does succeed in making a
distinct impression on his audiences,
independently of the truth or falsity
of his stump arithmetic, is in his
adroitness use of the characteristic
phrases which some genius at Republi-
can headquarters seems to have been
ready made for the purposes of a red
herring campaign.

What a stroke of consummate in-
telligence it was to cram the "official
bulletins" of the drive bureau with
such expressions as "Digging up the
money" and "Boys, get the money!"
and "Get money quick!" and "Step
on it!" and "Get the right man to see
the right people!" and "Our readers
are requested not to make this publi-
cation public" and a dozen other
signs of the advertising agent's "pep"
or of the publicity promoter's hor-
rified of persuasion or of the canned
lingo of organized solicitation on an
extensive scale!

Had the Republican authority re-
sponsible for this daintiness no mem-
ory of historical politics, no sense
of the quotable value to a po-
litical adversary of such verbal am-
munition, however innocent in its real
significance?

Why Prices Are Coming Down.
For the harassed consumer there
seemed to be a bit of irony in the
declaration of the Federal Reserve
Board last week that while its effect
had not yet been felt generally the
movement downward in the level of
prices had definitely commenced.
What made this statement look
peculiar to the ordinary citizen was
his memory of incidents three or four
years ago when the movement toward
inflated prices got under way.

Then the retail price was almost
always the first to go up. The in-
creases in retail prices were from two
to ten times as large as the wholesale
price increases.

But in predicting lower retail prices
as a result of the unquestioned gen-
eral decline in wholesale prices which
is now taking place the Federal Reserve
Board was undoubtedly treading on
safe ground, even if the undiminished
size of the ultimate consumer's gro-
cery bill still makes him sceptical.
There is good reason why the retail
prices of to-day should recede less
rapidly than retail prices rose two
three or four years ago. The differ-
ence in the upward and downward
movements is due to the difference in
world conditions.

Even before this country became
involved in the war Europe had mo-
bilized \$4,000,000,000 of securities,
\$2,000,000,000 in gold and \$3,000,000,
000 in private credits in America, the
result of which was to give the
belligerents a purchasing power of
\$9,000,000,000 to be used in a short
period in our markets. After we entered
the war the United States Treasury
supplied an additional \$10,000,000,000
credit, which of course meant an
equivalent buying power for Europe
and consequent increased demand on
our production. It is easy to see
again what we experienced—urgent
buying regardless of prices, hysterical
bidding at figures which before would
have been regarded as possible only
by madmen.

Prices skyrocketed under the double
charge of powder supplied by the
European purchaser and the home
consumer. Increased production partly
compensated for the increased de-
mand. Otherwise the index number
in this country, instead of rising to
around 200 per cent. of the 1914 level,
would have jumped to 400 or 500 per
cent., as it did in some of the Euro-
pean countries, where buying power
was increased through paper money
issues, while production was decreased
by withdrawal of man power.

Under such circumstances it is
obvious enough that the ultimate con-
sumer would not be long in feeling the
effect of rising prices.

But when Europe again begins to
produce goods and offer them for sale
here the consumer is slow to feel this
change in the relation of supply to
demand. Europe does not cost \$20,
000,000,000 of her surplus merchandise
within two or three years. If she did
that the consumer might reasonably
expect as sudden and unmistakable
evidence of declining prices as the

\$20,000,000,000 concentrated Euro-
pean buying power furnished in the
case of rising prices. Our favorable
trade balance last year, compared
with possible results this year, indi-
cates that Europe may be able to send
us in the next two or three years
nearly enough goods to pay for what
she buys from us. After that she
may be able to send us somewhat
more than she buys. If this sur-
plus should amount to as much as
\$1,000,000,000 a year it would take
Europe twenty years to pay back to us
the same quantity of goods which she
took out of our markets in less than
five years.

The question of prices is not local
but international. No sound judgment
of what is likely to happen can be
reached unless consideration is given
to world production as contrasted
with world demand. Inflation, money
stringency and all other troubles of
to-day are but side issues without
effect except as they relate to supply
and demand in the markets for food
and materials.

More downward movement in prices
means nothing, for if the ordinary
consumer were given his choice to-
morrow he might ask that his dollar
be enhanced in value as measured in
bread and butter, but unless there
were more bread and butter to give
him in exchange for his enhanced
dollar he would be no better off than
he was before.

Notwithstanding all the measures
that have been taken to force prices
down in the name of deflation the
one cause for the decline, and the
one indication that the Reserve
Board's prophecy will be fulfilled, is
to be found in the increased produc-
tion of Europe as reflected in her
larger exports to this country.

One drop of increased production in
Europe has done more good in the
world market than the whole ocean
of theoretical deflation here.

Grapes and Hops.
From Fresno, in the glorious cli-
mate of California, and from Rome,
in the Empire State, come reports of
unprecedented and unexpected pros-
perity. Fresnoites and Romans
mourned a worst time when, as they
reasonably enough supposed, a frosty
autumn killed their principal in-
dustries, their neighborhood crops of
grapes and hops. They foresaw long
days when the doors must be shut,
when the sound of the grinding would
be low.

They visioned darkly a swift com-
ing time when gas wagons and music
machines must be sold, and hushed
the song of the silk skirt. Their lands
parched by constitutional drought,
before them in gloomy anticipation
stalked the sheriff, behind them the
depressor grinned.

But what a joyous awakening from
horrid dreams! Fresno found that
old grape with sugar content
enough to be sold dried into a raisin
mounted in price until vineyardists
despaired that again they dreamed.
But no! A greedy mob of buyers battered
at their packing house doors hoarsely
shouting for raisins. By the truck
load! Car load! No, again, "By the
train load, brothers, and name your
own price."

Up State in Rome the moving pic-
ture was repeated by the wildly bid-
ding mobs of hop buyers. "Hops at
your own price!" holed the multitude
shouted, eager to exchange silver and
gold and the peculiar treasure of
kings for bitter hops.

Truly, where flourish the grape and
the hop the winter is past, the flowers
appear on the earth and the voice of
the turtle is heard in our land.

Crown Prince CAROL of Rumania is
expected because he was not able
to ride on the subway in rush hours.
A good many Brooklyn sovereigns
know to-day what a glorious privilege
he missed.

It was a handful of reactionaries which
selected the Republican nominee in a
quiet room of a hotel—Franklin D.
Roosevelt.

Was it in a noisy room at French
Lick that MURPHY and BRENNAN and
NUGENT and TAGGART settled on Cox?

It is now reported that uprisings
against the Bolsheviks have occurred
at several places in Siberia, and that
the defeat of Trotsky's forces in
Poland has given heart to all sane and
patriotic Russians. All news from
Russia is read with anxious interest
and hope these encouraging advices
are well founded.

Mr. ALBERT ASHENDEN of Los An-
geles, California, heads the list of a
thousand annuitants created by the
Federal act for the retirement of faith-
ful public servants grown old in the
Government's employ. That Mr. ASH-
ENDEN will long continue to enjoy the
fruits of his diligence and faithfulness
will be the wish of all Americans who
honorably have served.

The life of a ship owner becomes
more complicated all the time. If
free Ireland does not hold up a sailing
free Africa may.

A fifteen-year-old girl contestant in
an archery contest shot an apple from
a head, a wooden head—but not on a
man—at thirty-eight yards. This is
better than is done by Arizona Indians,
who aim at and sometimes hit a rat
much smaller target but at much
shorter range. The red man is suf-
fering from too much civilization.

The Democratic Ticket.
The Democratic ticket
We herewith present:
The party picked out Otto
To run for President.

That famous feat accomplished
They looked around for grace.
A young and handsome lad
They chose for second place.

CAMPAIGN FUNDS.
Frank Declaration of a Citizen Op-
posed to Wilsonism.
To THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD:
Why is it, may I ask, that so much
space is accorded to a discussion of the
so-called "slush fund" for the political
campaign when there is such a scarcity
of news print paper?

It is deplorable that any money is
ever spent for political purposes, but who
shall be the righteous judge of whether
it is legitimate to spend \$1,000,000 or
\$15,000,000 to accomplish the election of
a President?

Were I the fortunate possessor of
\$15,000,000 I would be glad to part with
the \$15,000,000 if the money would place
in power a President and Congress who
would restore our country to normal,
safe conditions.

It is impossible for the human mind
to conceive of a more ridiculous state
of affairs than that brought about by
the two Wilson administrations; eco-
nomic mistakes have been blarney; logis-
tical errors of all natural laws have
been enacted and accomplished the in-
evitable result—chaos in business and
labor conditions. Indulgences in diplo-
matic excesses have created a lurid pal-
let over what would now otherwise be
a tired but peaceful world.

Trickery under the guise of "war
emergency" has been perpetrated upon
the rank and file of our good, law abid-
ing citizens until they are tired and
disgusted.

I believe that if Governor Cox is at-
tached to pursue the methods and ac-
tivities which he has so far adopted, at
the end of another month it will not be
necessary to raise a "slush fund" of
any kind. CHARLES T. ELLIS.
NEW YORK, AUG. 28.

LIFE IN PETROGRAD.
"We Are No Longer Human," Writes
a Woman Who Cannot Get Away.
To THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD:
From friends in Norway I have received
a copy of an account of life in Petro-
grad, sent by a Russian lady to the
Aftenposten of Christiania. It says:

"I thought that life here was
horrible, but I assure you that it is
paradise compared with the life we
lead now. Neither language nor imagi-
nation could give a true picture of the
conditions under which we live.

"Last winter all commoners, such as
office help and laborers, went without
wood, without light, without drinking
water and without soap. The offices
were as cold as the open street; the
link froze in the inkwells, and we had
to sit and work in furs and overcoats.
There are many necessities that do not
even exist here.

"In order to get a little wood the city
sends us in very cold weather a few
stations outside the city, where, from
7 in the morning until 9 at night, we
must carry wood and pile it up in freight
cars. People are sent out to tear down
wooden houses for kindling wood, and
many who are unaccustomed to that
kind of work and too weak for it drop
under the weight of the planks and logs.
At 5 in the morning work is begun
in the offices and continues until 4
at night under an almost devilish disci-
pline. It isn't safe to anger a bandit,
who has a revolver pointed at you, and
if we are a moment late we are taken
to court and then sent to the work-
house. No matter how dissatisfied we
are with our work we are not allowed
to change it.

"The surface cars are very seldom
seen, as they stop at 4 in the evening
and on Sundays they do not run at all.
No other conveyances exist, but never-
theless we must be punctual at work.
"Epidemics help starvation to kill
people. I myself am not one of those
people who have the worst lot; don't
think that. I work in an office con-
nected with the railroad, and after busi-
ness I help a cook's child with her les-
sons and receive for payment my food.
In this way I keep from dying of
hunger. But the food that I eat is such
that dogs in Norway would not look
at it.

"National holidays we have to
march all day under red flags in the
demonstration parade, and if we don't
we are sent to the workhouse.
"Understand also that it is we who
bear all burdens and do all the work.
The Communists do nothing. They get
what they want at lower prices; they
have large incomes, automobiles, light
and heat and they know how to make
us work as the slave drivers did the
negroes of olden times.

"This is a few words, Russian life
to-day is a few words from here is im-
possible. These people who survive all
this must either be insane or entirely
numb in their feelings.
"Read this letter to as many people
as you can, so that they may know
what we go through and what commu-
nism is. We are no longer human; we
are beasts that are whipped. We have
neither will power nor hope."
H. M. H.
GREENWICH, CONN., August 28.

CARL MAY'S DEFENSE.
A Protest Against the Attempt to
Prevent Him From Pitching.
To THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD:
It is not apparent to the New York
baseball public just what the Cleveland
players, aided and abetted by those of
St. Louis and Washington, hope to ac-
complish by refusing to play against
Carl May's whenever the latter goes to
the pitching mound to hurl for the Yan-
kees. In fact, it seems that about the
only thing these players are doing by
taking such action is to keep alive in
the minds of those who wish to forget
it the lamentable death of that sterling
player Raymond Chapman.

Do these players hope to create the
impression that May's deliberately tried
to hit Chapman on the head with the
ball and seriously to injure him? If
that is their intention they are going to
meet with failure. No matter what he
has been accused of in the past in the
matter of throwing the so-called "bean
ball" it will be hard to convince any-
body that his hitting of Chapman was
anything but an accident. Aside from
the dead player's own relatives, probably
no person in the world feels more keenly
about it than May's himself.

According to reports the fact that
May was able to take his regular turn
in the box and pitch a shutout game
against Detroit in his next appearance
after hitting Chapman caused resent-
ment against him to increase instead of
subside. Apparently some of the play-
ers concluded that he was cold blooded
and heartless on this account. But
where is the logic of their argument?
New York, August 28. FAN.

G. O. P. Aid in Enemy's Camp.
From the Anaconda Standard.
Although owned by a Democratic family,
the paper of Mrs. D. B. Thompson of Gra-
ham has been lately to some extent
run by "Harding." It is using the newly
acquired word vehemently and is calling all
most constantly, "Harding, Harding!"

ON HELPING ONESELF.
The Road From Calcestra to Holdup
Traced in a Second Hand Car.
To THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD:
This is hot weather. It is a time to
keep cool mentally as well as physi-
cally. For this reason statements or
assertions which may lead to super-
heated arguments had at this particu-
lar season better be left unsaid. Yet
the truth must not be unspoken. So
let me announce the fact that the
prevalence of holdups is due to prohibi-
tion. And I will prove my contention.
Let me present my evidence.

I have a friend who has just bought
a new car, or rather a car new to him.
It is a costly little affair. Sort of a
sedan-limousine body. So compact is it
that you can sit on the back seat and
at the same time uncover the cap from
the radiator.

My friend, who is quite tall and lanky,
pretends to be able to crank the car
without leaving his seat, but I have
never seen him do this. However, I
do know that he has reached forward
from the driver's seat and picked up
children who have fallen directly in
front of the cap placing them care-
fully to one side. This has saved both
money and children.

When my friend first showed me his car
he told me frankly it was second
hand. I could hardly believe this; the
varnish was so radiant, the metal work
glistered so, and the freshly white-
washed tires were so immaculate. But
he proved easily enough on our first ride
that it really was a second hand car.

Take that with the first
evidence I have just given you, and with
the second hand—the second hand plays
an important part—you pick up the dif-
ferent parts which have loosened and
fallen off as the car proceeds. Really
the car might be classed as third or
fourth hand if only one, like some Hindu
godhead, were equipped with a third or
fourth hand.

The other day we stopped at Larry's
place near White Plains. We had been
there quite a while reconnoitering, so to
speak, the different parts which had
fallen off in the last few miles. I also
tried to buy a bottle of cologne in the
shop with a hundred lire note I found in
the road while looking for the left hand
goosehead of the car.

But after Ponzi in Boston had been
long distanced my offer was refused and
we started on dry. We had not gone far
when we were stopped by a young man
who explained that his car, just around
the bend ahead, had lost its differential
and asked us if we could spare ours.

We told him we could spare any part of
our car, because it would run just as well
without it as it did with it, and I got
down to get him our differential, which was
a simple matter, for it was nine-
tenths of already.

When I turned about to hand the man
our differential I found myself looking
down the barrel of a revolver and heard
the sharp command to throw up my
hands. This I tried to do, but found the
differential too heavy to lift over my
head, so I let it drop. Unfortunately it
landed on the bandit's foot—that's what
happened, a bandit—and this made him
angry. It isn't safe to anger a bandit,
who has a revolver pointed at you, and
I admit I was frightened, but had a
clear conscience.

Then the fellow ordered us to put the
differential back on the car, and this the
trouble. The thief then took all our
money and spare parts—I mean the
spare parts of the car—and after warn-
ing us not to move or make an outcry
got in the second hand making and drove
off.

We stood there in the road a long
while and the thief must have got
twenty miles away, for the rattle of the
car was getting fainter and fainter. How
we were rescued by another automobile
and how we traced the thief by the stray
parts of our car he had dropped in the
road